



## From the Executive Director



**Paula Arcena, Executive Director, Hawaii Medical Association**

The Hawaii Medical Association, with strong support from many proponents, successfully gained passage of legislation during the 2003 legislative session resulting in a clear standard for the process of Informed Consent.

On May 31, the more than 600 guests of HMA's Ola Pono Ike dinner dance program witnessed Governor Linda Lingle sign the bill in to law. Representative Calvin Say, speaker of the House, and Senator Colleen Hanabusa, chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, whose support was key to passage of the bill, participated in the bill signing along with approximately 20 other legislators and key participants.

Reform of Hawaii's Informed Consent law is a critical first step for preventing the malpractice insurance crisis from hitting the shores of Hawaii and negatively impacting patient access to quality care.

Before HMA's reform of Hawaii's Informed Consent law, statutes required a physician to inform patients of every "possible" risk, complication and anticipated benefit of medical treatment or surgical procedure. The word "possible" created an impossible standard for any physician to meet and fertile ground for unfair lawsuits against physicians. In fact, suits against Hawaii physicians for informed consent have already resulted million dollar verdicts. As a consequence, malpractice insurance premiums have increased by as much as 25 percent by MIEC this year.

Passage of the bill was not an easy task. The Hawaii Coalition for Health and the Consumer Lawyers Association made every

## HMA Informed Consent Bill Passes!

effort to kill the bills. The Coalition, which represented to legislators that it speaks for 300-400 physicians, testified that changes to the law were unnecessary and physicians simply "resent" the time it takes to properly deliver information to their patients for effective informed consent. Fortunately, HMA's legislation prevailed despite this opposition.

More work is necessary to ensure that reasonable standards for informed consent are reflected in regulations under the purview of the Board of Medical Examiners and cases heard by Hawaii's judicial system. The HMA will continue to work in this regard.

Successful passage of Informed Consent legislation is the result of years of ground-work and building credibility with our government decision-makers. The Hawaii Medical Association is the only physician organization that advocates for physicians, regardless of specialty, and their patients, at the State legislature.

We thank those who have supported the bill: HMA members who submitted supportive testimony, MIEC, HAPI, Board of Medical Examiners, Kaiser Permanente, Hawaii Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, Hawaii Association of Health Plans, HMSA, Kaiser Permanente, Art Roeca, Esq., Health care Association of Hawaii, Cancer Institute of Maui and Radiology Associates.

To see the bill go to:

[http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/hb651\\_sd1.htm](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessioncurrent/bills/hb651_sd1.htm)

For further information, please contact me at:

Phone: (808) 536-7702 x100

Email: [paula\\_arcena@hma-assn.org](mailto:paula_arcena@hma-assn.org)

Fax: (808) 528-2376

## Classified Notices

To place a classified notice:

**HMA members.**—Please send a signed and type-written ad to the HMA office. As a benefit of membership, HMA members may place a complimentary one-time classified ad in HMJ as space is available.

**Nonmembers.**—Please call 536-7702 for a non-member form. Rates are \$1.50 a word with a minimum of 20 words or \$30. Not commissionable. Payment must accompany written order.

### Patient Service Rep

#### PATIENT SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

POSITION AVAILABLE FOR A PATIENT SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE FOR HAWAII PRESCRIPTION CARE ASSOCIATION.

Qualifications are as follows:

- Completion of high school level education
- Minimum one year work experience in a clerical or receptionist position in a health care setting, such as an acute care hospital, physician's office or a Health Maintenance Organization.
- Knowledge of the operation of a computer terminal and the ability to operate routine office equipment.
- Ability to listen to patient information and translate it into written documentation.
- Ability to work independently and to respond under stress.
- Verbal and written communication skills.

Please send resume to:

HMA  
1360 S. Beretania St., Suite 200  
Honolulu, HI 95814

No phone calls, please.

### Seeking Position

**JEUNE G. BAE, MD—** BC, UNIV. TRAINED OTOLARYNGOLOGY-HEAD & NECK SURGERY. Been in practice with Univ. affiliation in NE region. Experienced in most areas of Med/Surg care. Immaculate record. Hi Lic. Seeking FT salaried pos. Jeune G. Bae, email: [jeunegbae@aol.com](mailto:jeunegbae@aol.com) or phone: (860) 677-4934 evenings, (860) 582-1558 days.

### Office Equipment

**EVERYTHING FOR A BRANCH OFFICE—** TO DO EXAM/PROCEDURES INCL. Dr. & pt. chairs, roller stools, fine adjust. table, B/P monitor, instruments, autoclave, supplies, sink - the works. Quality materials. Can ship. List available. First \$4200 takes all (even includes hair transplant and med. tattoo equip). Big Island 775-9003 daily 8-10.

### Units for Sale

**AIEA MEDICAL BUILDING—** 2 UNITS FOR SALE in this well established medical building. Excellent location! Unit #205-Asking \$111,000LH and Unit #206-Asking \$123,000LH. Please call for additional information and/or to see.